



State Representative John E. Barnes, Jr.

HB 206: Commercial Airline and Air Freight Commission
Sponsor Testimony

Thank you, Chair Green, Vice Chair Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy, and my esteemed colleagues on the Transportation and Public Safety Committee for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony on House Bill 206, which will create the Commercial Airline and Air Freight Commission.

As you know, Ohio is the 7th largest economy in the United States and the 21st largest economy in the World, so we must continue to lead in order to build on successes of the past and create new paths of opportunity for the future. Our airports play an important role in the economic development of a region as they are facilitating the movement of people and goods and cargo, which connects our economies throughout the United States and globally. I believe, this commission will help to provide leadership to assess where we are at this point in time and where we want to go in order to look for new opportunities to help expand Ohio's airports in order to encourage and attract businesses and economic growth to the state of Ohio. Also, Ohio is home to many institutions that conduct aerospace research including but not limited to the NASA Glenn Research Center and the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, which these institutions help bring great minds and ideas to the state that can contribute significantly as a resource to help expand Ohio's airports.

House Bill 206 will create the Commercial Airline and Air Freight Commission consisting of the following members:

- Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, not more than two of whom may be members of the same political party
- Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, not more than two of whom may be members of the same political party
- A member nominated by each passenger airline company and each air freight company that does business in Ohio, all of whom must be appointed by the Governor.

The President of the Senate shall designate one of the President's initial appointees as Chairperson for the remainder of the General Assembly during which the member was appointed, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate one of the Speaker's initial appointees as vice-chairperson for the remainder of the General Assembly during which the member was appointed. Thereafter, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall alternate designating the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the commission.

This bill will require the Commission to study the policies that are needed to achieve the goal of sustaining and expanding commercial passenger airline and air freight service, including international service, into and from Ohio airports, and what role, if any, the awarding of incentives to commercial passenger airline and air freight companies should have in achieving that goal. The commission will be required to submit its first report, including its findings and recommendations, to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Thereafter, the commission shall meet at the call of the chairperson and shall submit updated reports on the policies described at such times as determined necessary by the chairperson of the commission. All updated reports shall be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Government investments have a public value and public value is an opportunity to grow our economy to inspire people with a reason to believe they have a stake in the future. The future is what this is all about in order to continue to build new opportunities for businesses and educational diversity, which will ensure our continued sustainability and growth.

Thank you again for this opportunity, I would be happy to answer any questions.